



Saguaro National Park News Release

For Immediate Release

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FIRE RESTRICTIONS BEGIN AT SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK

Due to increased fire danger in southeast Arizona, Saguaro National Park will implement fire restrictions in both the Rincon and Tucson Mountain Districts, beginning Saturday, May 14, 2011. These restrictions coincide with similar restrictions going into effect or already in effect on other public lands in southern Arizona.

The fire restrictions prohibit the following acts:

- Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, charcoal, coal, or wood stove fire.
 - Exception: The use of petroleum-fueled stoves, lanterns, or heating devices is allowed so long as such devices meet the fire underwriter's specifications for safety. 36 CFR 2.13 (c)
- Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least ten feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material. Smoking is prohibited on hiking trails. 36 CFR 2.21

The purpose of these restrictions is to ensure the safety of park visitors and employees, and for the protection of the park's natural and cultural resources. These restrictions are dependent upon fire activity and weather conditions and will be evaluated daily. These restrictions are pursuant to the authority contained in Title 16 of the United States Code, Section 3, and Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 1.5(a)(1) and 1.5(a)(3).

Pressurized liquid or gas stoves, lanterns and heaters possessing shut-off devices are allowed. For backcountry camping permits or more information please contact the Rincon Mountain District Visitor Center at 520-733-5153.

Although the sale of ground and hand-held fireworks and their use in some locations is now legal in Arizona, the use or possession of all fireworks is always prohibited on all National Park Service lands, including Saguaro National Park, under Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 2.38(b).

These restrictions will remain in effect until July 18, 2011, or until fire danger decreases significantly. Violation of these restrictions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000, or imprisonment for no more than six months, or both.

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Please do your part; don't let a wildfire start. Keep these tips in mind before you leave home as well as on the trail to make for an enjoyable outdoor experience during fire season.

- Before going hiking or camping, check with public land management agencies for fire restrictions or area closures.
- Plan ahead and prepare - know your route, sign in at the trailhead, let someone else know where you are going and be sure to know how to get out.
- If you are in an area where campfires are allowed, make sure it is fully extinguished before leaving the area - be sure it is cold to the touch.
- If you are using a portable stove, make sure the area is clear of grasses and other fine fuels. Prevent stoves from tipping and starting a fire.
- Practice Leave No Trace principles - pack out cigarette butts and burned materials from your camping area.
- Be aware of sudden changes in the weather or changing weather conditions. For example, if you see a thunderstorm approaching, consider leaving the area.
- If you see a wildland fire, report its location by calling 9-1-1. Avoid traveling near it.

For local fire restrictions and fire information for Federal, Tribal and State lands in Arizona and New Mexico, as well as additional information on southeast Arizona public lands, visit <http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc> or call the toll free Fire Restriction Hotline 1-877-864-6985.

www.nps.gov

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